

## Hobbies

# 'Good' may not be good enough

By Roger Boye

**T**oday's column answers more questions from Chicago Tribune readers.

**Q**—Are coins in "good condition" worth collecting?

**C.G., Hickory Hills**

**A**—Possibly, depending on the date, metal composition and coin type. But as good as it sounds, "good" is one of the lowest condition categories, just a couple of notches above "poor" in the grading scale. In general, a coin rated "good" shows considerable wear, with the basic design appearing in outline form.

**Q**—Are nickels with a large "V" on the back side worth much? We have about 20 of them.

**R.T., Naperville**

**A**—All of the so-called Liberty nickels made in that time span retail for \$1 or less in "good con-

dition," except for a 1912 with an "S" mint mark on the tails side. It goes for at least \$30."

The buffalo nickel made its debut in 1913. Five 1913 Liberty nickels were secretly produced and smuggled out of the U.S. Mint building in Philadelphia.